material which is given to the fair price shops... *(interruptions)*...

श्री राजनाथ सिंह: मान्यवर, मैं इतना निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि इस प्रश्न को स्थगित कर दिया जाए और मंत्री जी इस प्रश्न की तैयारी करके सदन में आएं। मैं आपके द्वारा चाहता हूं कि प्रश्न को स्थगित करने का निर्देश दिया जाए और मंत्री जी पूरी तैयारी करने के बाद सदन में उत्तर दें।

SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Mr. Raj Nath Singh, why are you interrupting me like this?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Singh, if you require more information, the Minister will supply it to you.

SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, is the hon. Minister aware that the material given to the fair price shops is being diverted to private dealers? Since the prices of materials given to the fair price shops are low, the materials are being passed on to the private dealers by the fair price shop dealers. There are proceedings against such people under sections 5 and 6 of the Essential Commodities Act. A number of cases are there. A variety of such cases are taking place. Is the Minister aware that those materials are going into the free market?

श्री देवेन्द्र कुमार यादव: सभापति महोदय, आए दिन इस तरह की शिकायतें हमको मिली हैं। हमने माननीय मुख्य मंत्रियों के सम्मेलन में राज्यों के सभी मुख्य मंत्रियों के समक्ष इसे रखा था कि राशन का डाएवर्शन हो जाता है। इस डाएवर्शन को रोकना राज्य सरकारों का काम है। फूड ग्रेन का मूवमैंट, फूड ग्रेन का डाएवर्शन—यह राज्य सरकारों का काम है। परसों हमने एक गाइड लाइन केन्द्र सरकार की ओर से राज्य सरकारों को भेजी है कि इस तरह का डाएवर्शन नहीं होना चाहिए। इस पर कारगर कदम राज्य सरकार उठाए। वितरण करना राज्य सरकारों का काम है, हमारा काम स्टेट को ऐलोकेशन देना है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 162— Shri Rahman Khan.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. Shrikant RamchandraJichkar.

*162. *[The questioner (Shri K. Rahman Khan) was absent. For answer, vide Col. 31 infra]*

Sick Industrial Units

*163. SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO:
DR. SHRIKANT RAM-CHANDRA JICHKAR:t Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise distribution of the sick industrial units as on the 1st July, 1996;

(b) the general reasons for this sickness;

(c) whether there are any state related specific reasons for this sickness; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken to control industrial sickness?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the Housc.

Statement

(a) Data on sick industrial units assisted by Banks in the country is compiled by the Reserve Bank of India. According to the latest RBI data available, the state-wise distribution of sick industrial units, as at the end of March, 1995 is at Statement-I *(See* below).

(b) and (c) According to the RBI report, a number of causes, both internal and external, often operating in combination, have been responsible for industrial sickness. The main causes include deficiencies in planning, management, marketing, etc. The RBI report mentions change in Government policies as one of the externa] factors.

(d) The Government has taken a number of steps for revival of sick industrial units which, *inter-alia,* include,

guidelines of Reserve Bank of India to Banks, amalgamation of sick units with healthy units and setting up of Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) under Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, National Renewal Fund, National Equity Fund, etc.

Statement-I

Statewise distribution of Sick Industrial Units as at the end of March, 1995

StateUnion Territory	No. of sick industrial units
Assam	18015
Meghalaya	369
Mizoram	162
Bihar	26802
Arunachal Pradesh	140
West Bengal	50724
Nagaland	1728
Manipur	2370
Orissa	20542
Sikkim	97
Tripura	926
A&N Islands	28
Uttar Pradesh	36159
Delhi	5735
Punjab	2511
Haryana	2401
Chandigarh	201
J&K	133
Himachal Pradesh	671
Rajasthan	17267
Gujarat	7897
Maharashtra	21703
Daman & Diu	68
Goa	661
D & N Haveli	2
Madhya Pradesh	11587
Andhra Pradesh	13965
Karnataka	11492
Tamil Nadu	7437
Kerala	8697
Pondicherry	240
Total:	270730

Dr. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, in 1983, a Committee was constituted to go into the legal difficulties of industrial sickness. The Committee gave its recommendations, but nothing had happened. Then, the time came in 1993 to appoint another Committee, the Goswami Committee. The Goswami Committee gave its recommendations in July, 1993.

So, my first supplementary is whether the recommendations of the Goswami Committee have been accepted and whether these recommendations will actually be implemented before the time comes to appoint another Committee.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Sir, appointment of Committees has become a way with any Government. For the information of the hon. Member, I would say that the Government has set up a Committee on Industrial Sickness and Corporate Restructuring under the Chairmanship of Shri Goswami. The objective of the Committee was to make a persuasive case for corporate reorganisaton to meet the challenges of industrial sickness in India and to outline innovative, imple-mentable reforms to facilitate the process of industrial, corporate reorganisation. The Committee submitted its report in July, 1993. It is a Committee appointed by the Finance Ministry. Its findings and recommendations are being considered by the Finance Ministry.

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Sir, industrial sickness is increasing every year. Industrial growth is also increasing.

The Economic Survey Update says that the industrial growth has not only been high during the last two years but has also been broad-based.This is an excellent compliment to the Narasimha Rao Government. But this is a paradox.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOW-DHURY: Self-praise is no praise.

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: There is a paradox. Industrial sickness is also increasing. Today, the statement says that there are 2,70,000

industrial units which are sick. And industrial growth is also increasing at a faster pace. So, there is a paradox. I am at a disadvantage to understand the logic of this paradox. Why is this paradox? How are you going to reconcile this paradox?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Industrial sickness is due to various reasons. Sickness is influenced by the status of the technology, economics of scale, professional management, etc.

If you take the small-scale industries, there are many reasons. If you take the public Sector undertakings, I would say that the reasons for sickness, as given by a recent study of the Reserve Bank of India, are many. The RBI took up a study on 12th April, 1996. For example, internal factors cause 53.6% of the industrial sickness. They had taken up a sample survey of 2391 sick and weak industrial units and had come to the conclusion that 53.6% of the sickness is due to internal factors like deficiencies in technical feasibility studies, economic surveys, deficiencies in project management, implementation, production, etc. In a sense, from the very beginning, they make certain deficiencies.

Secondly, there are certain external factors like non-availability of raw-materials, power shortage, transportation bottlenecks, change in Government policies, increase in import costs, increase in overhead costs, marketing saturation, etc. These external factors cause the remaining 46.4% sickness. It is a continuous process. Industries are getting sick. At the same time, we should get forewarning signals and we should contemplate early warning systems and go into the problems before they become sick.

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: My supplementary was different, Mr. Chairman. However, I am happy that his reply has given us a lot of information. My supplementary was ...*(interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You want an explanation for the paradox.

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: How is it that in spite of 2,70,000 sick industrial units industry is still growing?

So, what is to be done to these two lakh seventy thousand units? Some policy decision has to be taken about these two lakh seventy thousand; whether they have to remain or they don't have to remain and if they have to remain, in what manner they have to remain. Something must come from the Minister.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Sir, industrial sickness has nothing to do with industrial development. Even in advanced countries, as you know very well, certain industries become sick. They call them 'sun-set industries'. Even in America it happens. So, there is no question of compatability between industrial sickness and industrial development. Naturally, the Government has to appoint various committees and we are going in to it in the sense what we need is an early warning system, i.e., before they become sick, the Government and the banks should be able to detect the sickness; before they become incurable, i.e. before they are sent to the BIFR, we should be able to know the reasons for their sickness and detect them.

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Sir, it is difficult to. ...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please. You are asking too general a question.

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Sir...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Gurudas Das Gupta.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, frankly speaking, many of us not belonging to a particular side, are sick of the Government's reply on sickness. The reply that the hon. Minister has given...

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHA-JIRAO SHINDE: Now you are behind him. ...*(interruptions)*...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: The reply that the present Minister of Industry has given could be very well the reply of the previous Government also. Same reply! Sir, the issue...

MR. CHAIRMAN: And the future Government. ... *(interruptions)*...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, one thing I can submit very humbly is that democracy would be at peril if it is taken for granted that the same answer could be given by all the Governments. Democracy would be at peril, Sir. ...*(in-terruptions)*...*That* apart, according to the statistics prepared by the Reserve Bank of India it was found that corporate mismanagement happens to be a leading factor for the sickness of the industries, particularly in the private sector. If it is so, part (a) of my question is what the Government proposes to do to deal with the rising volume of corporate delinquency.

A large number of public sector units of West Bengal —I come from a State which is, unfortunately, the worst victim of the problem of sickness involving the public sector...

SHRI V NARAYANASAMY: Your Government is responsible for that. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: All these units are run by the Central Government.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: And also by the State Government.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, we are discussing public sector sickness run by the Central Government and not by the State Government so .....*(Inter ruptions)*...

SHRI ASHOK MITRA: You should be ashamed that you are laughing.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: We are laughing at your performance. ...*(In-terruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let us not have this. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, the worst human problem is being taken very lightly by us. The issue before us is of thousands of employees in West Bengal who are voters not of a single party, being denied wages month after month, of provident fund default being made by the units run by the Central Government, even gratuity not being paid. And the present situation continues over the years. We had drawn the attention of the previous Government. There was an assurance from the hon. former Prime Minister and the hon. former Finance Minister that liberalisation will have a human face and no default in wages will be allowed. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please put a question.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, part (b) of my question is whether the Government is aware that default in wages which constitutes violation of the statutory law of the country is taking place with impunity in different parts of the country, particularly in West Bengal, if so, what steps the Government will take in this regard. Sir, part (c) of my question is this. Is it true that the BIFR had made a recommendation for revival of a number of units, but the suggestion of the BIFR for additional funds has been totally ignored by the Government-run financial institutions, including the nationalised banks?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: As regards the first part of the question, I am happy to note that the hon. Member has realised that there is sickness in private sector undertakings also. If they are sick, they have to go through the BIFR route. As regards non-payment of wages...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, the first part was about corporate delinquency.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: It is a general term, Sir. I do not know what he means by corporate delinquency. If they violate certain rules and regulations, for that we have to take action according to law.

The second part is about non-payment of wages in certain public sector undertakings. I am sorry to say that I have to accept it in all humility because it is the responsibility of the Government and our Government is committed to it. No Government can relinquish its responsibilities towards payment of wages. It is our obligation and I would say that we are committed to it. It is all the more shameful that we have not been in a position to give to employees the post-retirement benefits like gratuity and other benefits. I would assure the hon. Member that we would take all steps as early as possible.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: What is the time-frame? We have been hearing this for a long time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am calling Shri S.B. Chavan. No time-frame.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: Irrespective of the party in power, this is a human problem to which attention will have to be paid by the Government, whichever party is in office. I would request the hon. Minister not to pass on this blame either to the previous Government or to this Government or to that Government. If you are really serious about it, I would like to know whether the Government has accepted the Goswami Committee report, whether they are satisfied that the Goswami Committee has definitely applied its mind and whether a real solution to the problem is going to be found. This is the first part of my question.

The second part is: Is the hon. Minister aware of the fact that even wages and provident fund have not been paid? I come from a State where land value is very high. Every/ effort is being made by the mill-owners to close units in order to sell the land at a very high price. Is the Government going to see that befor the land is used for any other purpose the amount that they would be realising would be used to pay the wages, provident fund and other things or whatever the labourers are entitled to? Will the Government see to it that this is given the first priority?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Sir, regarding the first part, the Goswami Committee was appointed by the Finance Ministry. The recommendations are being looked into by the Finance Ministry. The problem is that we wait for sickness in terms of negative ones. We should have an early warning system and a system for early stage intervention and restructuring. Sir, the hon. Member has pointed out that land value being very high in places like Bombay, efforts were being made by the industrial owners to sell their lands. If and when they sell their lands, subject to the permission of the State and the Central Governments, they will be compelled to discharge their legal liabilities to workers. They will be taken care of by the Government.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Sir, the hon. Minister has stated certain reasons for sickness in answer to Q.No. 163. But he has stated different reasons in answer to Q.No. 170. As regards Q.No. 170, it is. stated that the total loss of the top ten loss-making public sector undertakings comes to Rs. 2,500 crores and the number of labourers employed is 3,63,373.

The causes of loss in these PSUs vary from enterprise to enterprise. Some of them have outdated technology, old and obsolete plant and machinery, lack of working capital, etc. Now, these are public sector undertakings of the Central Government. In these ten loss-making

enterprises, the loss is Rs. 2500 crores and the number labour involved is more than three and a half lakhs. Sir, I have seen the Public Sector Enterprises Survey — 1994-53 (Voiume-I), where the consolidated balence as on 31.3.95 is: total liability RS. 3,42,932 crores and the total deficit is Rs. 30,612 crores; total number of sick public enterprises is 245 and the number of those referred to the BIFR is 145. I would like to know about the scheme which the Government has, so far as the Central public undertakings are concerned, for the revival of these 53 sick industrial units which are in the public sector and which are pending before the BIFR, because of outdated technology, old and obsolete plant and machinery and lack of capital. I would also like to know the steps which the Government proposes to take to remove these deficiencies and bring these public sector units at par with those which are profit making.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Sir, there are several ways of looking at things. These losses are enterprise-specific. Each industrial undertaking has its own reasons. Steps to control the losses and turn around are to be enterprise-specific. Some of the steps taken by the Government include periodic performance review meetings of the public sector enterprises by the administrative Ministries and the Department of Public Enterprises through the mechanism of MOUs. With a view to improving the public sector profile as a whole, the efficiency and profitability of the local units, we have created a task force, including a body of professional serving as watchdog, for evaluating the performance of the MOU system. The system of MOU is a very novel system, perhaps for the first time it has been introduced in the public sector, it is an attempt to manage the public sector enterprises with objectives rather than control them by holding accountable for their deficiencies. Sir, they take care of the accountability and the autonomy. It is a performance contract. So, they evaluate all these things. For example, 99 public enterprises signed the MOUs with their administrative Ministries for the year 1994-95. Out of 99 enterprises evaluated, 46 were rated 'excellent' and 28 as 'very good'. Sir, another thing is that many cases have gone to the BIFR. For example, Sir, there are about 60 undertakings under the BIFR. There are 13 cases where the revival schemes have been sanctioned under section 18(4). There are 11 other case. in which draft revival schemes have been circulated. Sir, these are the procedures which we follow.

SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the industrial backwardness of Assam is well-known. Actually there is no tempo of economic development either. There were two or three very important sick industries in the cooperative sector which were included in the Assam Accord of 1985. More so, in view of the fact that the present Government is committed to 'economic and industrial development of Assam, I would like to know from the Minister whether any concrete steps are being taken for revitalising those particular industries which were included in the Assam Accord of 1985.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Sir, sickness in small scale industrial units and in SSI units is the same in every region,-in every State. Sir, there is a uniform remedy. For example, regarding SSI, I need not say there are several programmes; there is equity assistance scheme; besides that there is a State level inter-institution committee. Sir, the local officer in-charge of the Reserve Bank of India in the Rural Planning and Credit Department acts as a convenor. So, they meet periodically and device ways and means.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOW-DHURY: These attempts are very laudable and all this sounds wonderful on paper. We are facing technical aspects and difficulties in overcoming the present bottle-neck. Is it a fact that in the indus-

tries, re-packaging has been recommended by the BIFR and that banks have not accepted the BIFR's recommendations and turned down these packages? In such a case, what is the role that BIFR plays if they are only going to give us suggestions? The other thing is a spill-over from my hon. colleague. There is a rising insecurity and industrial unrest spreading nation-wide. So, I would like the Minister to re-assure the House and the nation as to the time-frame within which the wages can be paid because as Government, as owners, we have no excuse for not paying. So we have got to be able to come out with a viable timeframe to pay the wages and the provident fund because due to price rise the living conditions have become very difficult.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Sir, regarding the first part of the question, the BIFR is there when the operating agency is there. If any financial institution, even after recommendations, goes back, naturally we have to put pressure on it, if that particular undertaking is viable. So we will take care of such things. The second part of the question is, when are you going to pay the arrears if there are any? I have already answered the hon. Member.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOW-DHURY: Are there any arrears?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Yes, there are; not in all, but in several cases there are. I said it is a commitment by the Government. There is no other go except to pay it. It depends not only upon my Ministry but it depends upon many other administrative Ministries. If we do not have funds, we have to approach the Finance Ministry for budgetary allocations from the non-plan funds. Sir, we are making every effort and I would assure the House that very soon we will pay all the arrears.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOW-DHURY: Sir, I asked two specific questions. If he had to put pressure on BIFR, what is the role the BIFR is playing? Is it only for recommendations? (Interruptions) What is the legal standing? I want to know what the legal standing is? If BIFR makes recommendations and the hanks turn them down, what is the legal position? What role do banks play and where does BIFR stand?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Even though BIFR is playing a particular role, it is not satisfactory in many quarters. We have to re-structure BIFR as a fast track facilitator.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: What is this, Sir, banks are refusing to pay? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: If banks refuse to pay, there may be reasons. We have to go into the reasons.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOW-DHURY: The reasons are already intimated by the BIFR. That is what I am asking.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: BIFR is a legal entity. This Parliament passed a law.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOW-DHURY: BIFR is the authority for this. Banks are merely to execute. They are not a monitoring authority.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: How can the banks refuse to implement the suggestions of the BIFR?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Banks also function according to rules and regulations of the Reserve Bank of India. They have to function according to the rules and regulations of the Reserve Bank of India. If the hon. Member brings to my notice any particular case, definitely I will intervene.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: BIFR's recommendations are meant to be mandatory. Let the Minister say that it is not mandatory. What is this, Sir?

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOW-DHURY: What I fail to understand is,

there is a specific definition of the role that BIFR plays in rehabilitating and repackaging industry. The banks have no authority as such to turn down BIFR's recommendations. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SING-LA: It is not mandatory for the banks to accept it.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: It is not mandatory for the banks to accept it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: In commonsense I don't think so. I don't know what the law is. Banks are not obliged to accept every recommendation that they have got.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOW-DHURY: Let me complete my question. In which case, what is the role of BIFR and what happens to industries which go to BIFR? And then, we have another monitoring authority. That is what I wanted... *(Interruptions)*....

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: I do not know the legal aspects exactly because BIFR comes under Finance Ministry. BIFR cannot command a particular bank that it should lend so much money under peril. The banks have to look at it from various angles, they may have differences of opinion.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOW-DHURY: Then, what is the role of BIFR?

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is a fact ... .*(Interruptions)*....

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Sir, there are certain lacunae in the BIFR system also. That is why we have said in our Common Minimum Programme that we have to revamp the entire process including the BIFR.

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SING-LA: Thank you very much, Sir. I would like to ask you a very small question. The first is a very interesting information. The largest number of sick industrial units are located only in West Bengal. Around 23% of sick industries are in West Bengal. In many of the industrially most developed States like Maharashtra, Gujarat etc., sick industiral units are minimum there, So my first question is that the reason that ideological phobia governs the sickness of industrial units or not? Is sickness as a reason coming up in sick industries for an ideological phobia? My second question is, is the revival package which the Minister has announced like the BIFR, National Rural Fund, National Equity Fund an adequate answer? The fact of the matter is that you are spreading sickness to other sectors. What is happening is, you are trying to write off loans, you are trying to pump in more money from banks. You are trying to save the sickness of an industry. But in the process the banks become sick, the financial institutions become sick.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you can conclude .... *(Interruptions)*....

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SING-LA: This is exactly what has happened in West Bengal....*(Interruptions)*.... Industrial sickness has spread to all the banking institutions and the major banks in West Bengal are sick. Is there any way other than this?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Second part.

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SING-LA: The second part is, I would like to know whether this is an adequate strategy to revive, because if I have to give example after example, you are spreading sickness to other sectors... .*(Interruptions)*....

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Some of the States have been industrialised in early years. Therefore, their technology might have become redundant. Probably, they are paying the cost for their early industrialisation. That is why West Bengal tops the list. I do not find any other reason. Secondly, sickness in public sector undertakings is bothering us. It has been worrying us. We have appointed committees after committees. Several

committees have been appointed to revamp the public sector undertakings. Now, Sir, the Common Minimum Programme has identified three categories of public sector undertakings. Sir, the first group is those industries that have comparative advantages. Sir, the Government has to support them in the drive to become global giants. The second category is the profit-making and efficient public sector companies. These companies will be strengthened and their management professionalised and participation of workers in the management of the companies will be encouraged. The third category is the sick and potentially sick public sector companies have to be rehabiliteted. It may include handing over management to professional groups or workers's cooperatives.

These are the things we have said in our Common Minimum Programme. Sir, we have to approach it from this angle. Very soon, we will come out with a programme regarding our attitude to the question of revamping of the public sector undertakings.

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SING-LA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, my question has not been answered.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has answered the question.

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SING-LA: My question was ....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has answered the question substantially. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Sir, we are very happy to note one thing, that so far as the cause of sickness is concerned, labour is not the problem. All through, outside, it has been attributed as the main reason for the sickness. Now it is very clear that labour is not the reason.

Regarding the steps to revive the sick units, as far as the BIFR is concerned, the Act stipulates that it is mandatory so far as its recommendation for closing down a sick unit is concerned. It is recommendatory so far as revival is concerned. Therefore, even after a draft scheme is given, if it is not acceptable to any party, it will not be mandatory to revive that unit. For this purpose, what is required is — it has been mentioned in our Common Minimum Programme also — the amendment of the Sick Industrial Companies Act so that the BIFR has the mandatory power to revive amendment of SICA. A punishment measure is there only when a scheme is sanctioned after acceptance. Therefore, I would like to know whether the SICA is going to be amended in such a way that even the revival measures suggested by the BIFR become mandatory on all parties.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister has already replied that he is going to revamp it.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Sir, the hon. Member has said that labour is not the main reason for the sickness of any industry. I agree with him completely. Recently, the Indian Statistical Institute has come out with a report. There, they have clearly said — I quote: "Labour unrest is a poor explanator of the permanent closure or winding up of companies across all the States."

As the hon. Member has said, there should be some amendment in the law in order to revamp the BIFR. Naturally, when we consider it, his suggestion would be taken note of and we will consult all the parties before we bring in the law.

83rd Conference of ILO on Child Labour

*164. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:t SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether ILO at its 83rd Conference in Geneva held in June this year, observed that 25% of children in age group

of The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Sushilkumar Sambhajirao Shinde.